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I attended the Scoping meeting in Traverse City, Mi. Listening to the grave concerns of colleagues, friends, governmental leaders, educators, Great Lakes water quality people, as well as the director of the Inland Seas Schoolship program, of which, I am an instructor, I witnessed the intense public outcry for action.

I was heart-sick and shocked to conclude the potential outcome of the study, which might still allow exotic species to jeopardize the health of our lakes and, ultimately, the health of our planetary citizens.

The response and information, offered by those we had hoped to trust, was neither satisfying or reassuring. Knowing that whomever makes the final decision to rescue "thoroughly"--the Great Lakes from the potential disaster, will most certainly become heroine or hero, I wondered how the members of our democratic society could possibly influence such an event.

As a Stewardship Instructor aboard the Inland Seas, 1800 replica schooner on Lake Michigan, I am working to devise a curriculum and mentoring approach for our students, which will inspire them to commit a part of their lives to the protection of their beloved lakes.

I wish to encourage youngsters to work to enhance and protect the safety and quality of the Great Lakes watersheds, the habitats within the waters, their life-giving food web, the recreational, economic, tourism, etc. aspects.

I hope that the generation of young ones can mature, with enthusiasm and wisdom, and an agenda, knowing that those of us in the current generation made wise choices and handed them a healthy waterway system. Without burdening my students with the, perhaps, hopeless effort to convince our leaders to do what we wish and what seems most obvious, I know that I must rally and encourage them.

What can citizens do when political forces put interests above protection of our resources and lifeline--our planetary survival?

As an educator, parent, grandparent, I am a stakeholder in the survival of our planet. I have four daughters, each of whom work daily, directly or indirectly, exposing children to the beautiful earth, its needs for sustainability, and roles which

they may play in its protection.

A daughter and son-in-law, have worked for the DEQ, a daughter works for the protection of the Mississippi and its watersheds, one teaches little people respect for Nature, and a fourth daughter's daily bread depends on the success of the fisheries from which, we all eat.

What can we do or say to you?

Please consider our future generations and those whose work and lifeblood goes into the rivers and lakes and oceans!

Consider one such, as me, who will be asking our young stewards to PITCH IN!

*Daily Middleton*